In the claims

1. (Cancel)

2. (Cancel)

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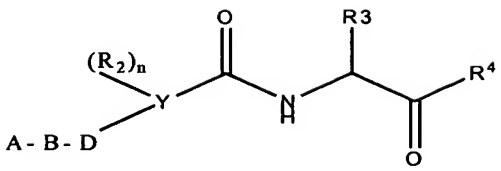
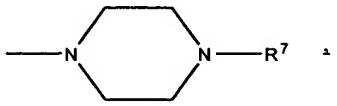
20. (New) An amide of the formula I



and its tautomeric forms, enantiomeric and diastereomeric forms, E and Z forms, and physiologically tolerated salts, in which the variables have the following meanings:

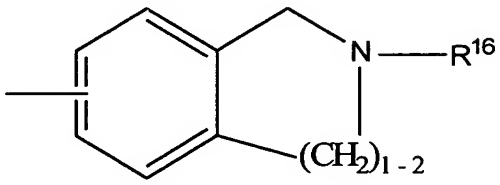
A $-(CH_2)_p-R^1$, where R^1 is pyrrolidine, morpholine, hexahydroazepine piperidine, $-NR^5R^6$ or



wherein the cyclic amines are optionally substituted by one or two R^{15} radicals, and R^{15} is hydrogen, C_1-C_6-alkyl, O-C_1-C_6-alkyl or phenyl, and R^5, R^6 and R^7 are, independently of one another, hydrogen, C_1-C_4-alkyl, cyclohexyl, cyclopentyl, CH_2Ph, Ph, or CH_2CH_2Ph, wherein Ph is a phenyl ring and the phenyl rings are optionally substituted by R^6, p is1 and 2,

B is phenyl, pyridyl, pyrazyl, pyrimidyl or pyridazyl, wherein the rings are optionally substituted by up to 2 R^8 radicals,

A and B together are



R^{16} is hyrogen, C_1-C_6-alkyl or $(CH_2)_{1-4}$-phenyl, wherein the phenyl ring is optionally substituted by a maximum of 2 R^6 radicals,

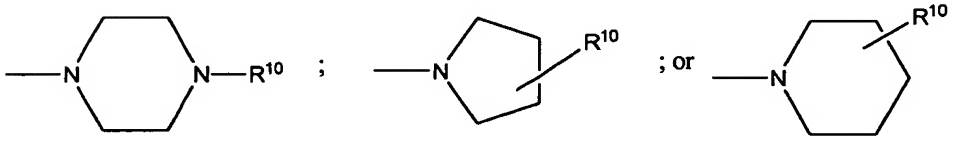
D is a bond, $-(CH_2)_{0-2}-O-(CH_2)_{0-2}$, $-(CH_2)_m-$, -CH=CH-, or $-C\equiv C$,

R^2 is chlorine, bromine, flourine, C_1-C_6-alkyl, NHCO-C_1-C_4-alkyl, $NHSO_2$-C_1-C_4-alkyl, NO_2, -O-C_1-C_4-alkyl or NH_2,

R_3 is –C_1-C_6-alkyl, branched or unbranched, which is optionally substituted with a SCH_3 radical, a phenyl ring, imidazolyl ring, indolyl ring, cyclopentyl ring, cycloheptyl ring or cyclohexyl ring which is in turn substituted by a maximum of two R^8 radicals, where R^8 is hydrogen, C_1-C_4-alkyl, branched or unbranched, -O-C_1-C_4-alkyl, OH, Cl, F, Br, I, CF_3, NO_2, NH_2, CN, COOH, COO-C_1-C_4-alkyl, NHCO-C_1-C_4-alkyl, -$NHSO_2$-C_1-C_4-alkyl or –SO_2-C_1-C_4-alkyl;

Y is pyridine,

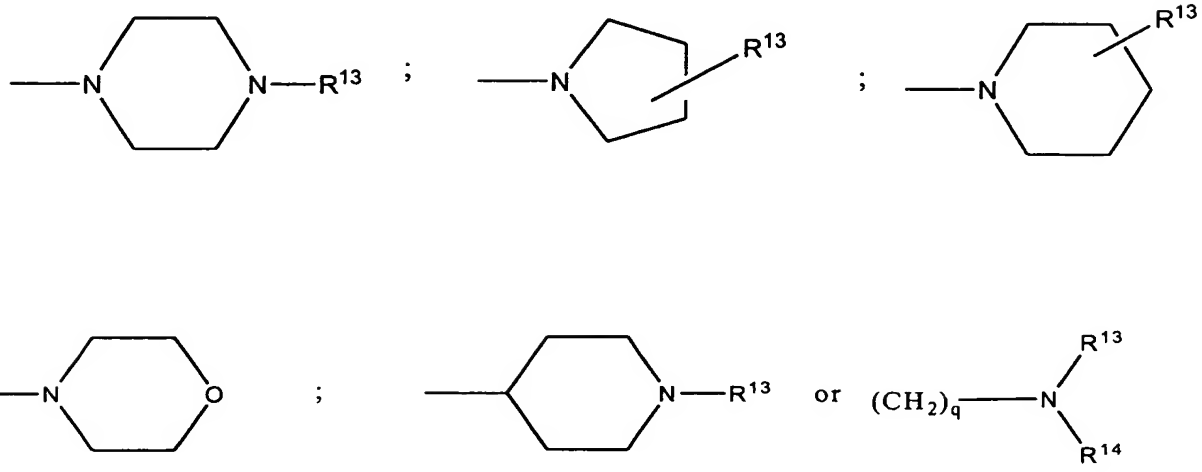
R^4 is hydrogen, $COOR^9$, CO-Z in which Z is $NR^{10}R^{11}$,



R^9 is hydrogen or C_1-C_6-alkyl, linear or branched, which is optionally substituted by a phenyl ring which is optionally substituted by one or two R^{12} radicals,

R^{10} is hydrogen C_1-C_6-alkyl, linear or branched, which is optionally

substituted by a phenyl ring which is optionally substituted by one or two R^{12} radicals,



R^{11} is hydrogen or C_1-C_6 alkyl, branched or unbranched, which is optionally substituted by a phenyl ring which is optionally substituted by an R^9 radical,

R^{12} is hydrogen, C_1-C_4-alkyl, branched or unbranched, -O-C_1-C_4-alkyl, OH, Cl, F, Br, I, CF_3, NO_2, NH_2, CN, COOH, COO-C_1-C_4-alkyl, -NHCO-C_1-C_4-alkyl, -NHCO-phenyl, -$NHSO_2$-C_1-C_4-alkyl, $NHSO_2$-phenyl, -SO_2-C_1-C_4-alkyl or –SO_2-phenyl,

R^{13} is hydrogen, C_1-C_6-alkyl, linear or branched, which is optionally substituted by a phenyl ring which is optionally substituted by one or two R^{12} radicals,

R^{14} is hydrogen, C_1-C_6-alkyl, linear or branched, which is optionally substituted by a phenyl ring which is optionally substituted by one or two R^{12} radicals,

n is a number 0, 1 or 2, and

m and q are, independently of one another, a number 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4.

21. (New) An amide of the formula I as claimed in claim 20 where:

A is $-CH_2-R^1$;

B is phenyl;

D is –CH=CH–;

R^2 is hydrogen;

R^3 is benzyl, CH_2-CH_3, CH_2-CH_2-CH_3, $CH_2CH_2CH_2CH_3$, or $CH_2CH_2CH_2CH_2CH_3$;

R^4 is hydrogen and

all the remaining variables have the same meaning as in claim 20.

22. (New) An amide of the formula I as claimed in claim 20, where:

A is $-CH_2-R^1$;

B is phenyl;

D is –CH=CH–;

R^2 is hydrogen;

R^3 is benzyl, CH_2-CH_3, CH_2-CH_2-CH_3, $CH_2CH_2CH_2CH_3$; or $CH_2CH_2CH_2CH_2CH_3$;

R^4 is $CO\text{-}NH_2$ and

all the remaining variables have the same meaning as in claim 20.

23. (New) A method of treating a patient having a condition treatable by inhibiting cysteine proteases comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of an amide of claim 20.

24. (New) The method of claim 23 wherein the cysteine proteases are calpains or cathepsins.

25. (New) The method of claim 23 wherein the condition is a disease in which elevated calpain activities occur.

26. (New) A method of treating a patient having a neurodegenerative disorder or neuronal damage comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of an amide of claim 20.

27. (New) The method of claim 26 wherein the neurodegenerative disorder or neuronal damage is induced by ischemia, trauma or massive bleeding.

28. (New) The method of claim 26 wherein the neurodegenerative disorder or neuronal damage is stroke or craniocerebral trauma.

29. (New) The method of claim 26 wherein the neurodegenerative disorder or neuronal damage is Alzheimer's disease or Huntington's disease.

30. (New) The method of claim 26 wherein the neurodegenerative disorder or neuronal damage is epilepsy.

31. (New) A method of treating a patient having damage to the heart after cardiac ischemias, damage due to reperfusion after vascular occlusions, damage to the kidneys after renal ischemias, skeletal muscle damage, muscular dystrophies, damage produced by proliferation of smooth muscle cells, coronary vasospasm, cerebral vasospasm, cataracts of the eyes or restenosis of blood vessels after angioplasty comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of an amide of claim 20.

32. (New) A method of treating a patient having tumors or metastasis thereof. comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of an amide of claim 20.

33. (New) A method of treating a patient having disorders in which elevated interleukin-1 levels occur comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of an amide of claim 20.

34. (New) A method of treating a patient having immunological disorders comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of an amide of claim

20.

35. (New) A pharmaceutical preparation composition for oral, parenteral or intraperitonal use, comprising at least one amide claim 20 per single dose, and conventional pharmaceutical ancillary substances.

36. (New) The method of claim 24 wherein the calpains are calpain I, calpain II, cathepsin B or cathepsin L.

37. (New) The method of claim 34 wherein the immunological disorder is inflammation or a rheumatic disorder.